Pilferage of Foodgrains from Railway Wagons

2169. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAN SAL; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on many occasions the railway wagons carrying 'foodgraing of Food Corporation of India are found with the seals tampered and the goods pilfered on arrival at the destination;

(b) how many such cases were reported during the year 1985 and what was the total quantity of food grains thus lost; and

(c) how many of thes casss of pilfeiage or theft were traced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS. TRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) On some occasions wagons carrying foodgrains of Food Corporation of India are received at th« destination points with seals tampered/dis* turbed.

(a) and (c) la such cases of shortages where seals are found tamperedjdisturbed, claims for compensation are lodged by the Food Corporation of India against the Railaws. The total claim of Rs. 3.94 crores were lodged with the Railways during the year 1985 for pilferage, damage, etc.

Promise of more Central Investment In/ West Bengal

2170. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had promised Jiore Central investment in West Bengal during his recent Visit to Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are tbe details in this regard and what steps are being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister while speaking at the Congress-I Workers' Convention at Oal« cutta on 1-7-1986, had urged them to take the responsibility of economic revival of West Bengal. Extending full assistance of the Central Government he had stated that Centre would not fail in any manner whatsoever in helping West Bengal revive it's declining economy. In fact, the Centre has already brought out some chan-ges in its polices which are aimed at revival of the Jute and Tea Industries.

Committee for Allotment of Accommodation in the Southern Command Area

2171. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee for allotment of types 'A' and 'B' accommodation to the Army officers in the Southern Command area has been constituted by the Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, when;

(c) what is the composition and the names of the head and the members of the Committee;

(d) what is the scope of the role and duties of the Committee in the matter of allotment of Types 'A' and 'B' accommodation; and

(e) whether any weightage is given to the recommendations/suggestions of the Committee in the allotment of accommodation; if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Destruction of Forests in Kerala

2172. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forests in Kerala are being cleared gradually by the organised groups with political patronage,